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Summary record of the 62nd meeting
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Chairman: Mr. Abelian (Chairman) ..... (Armenia)
later: Mr. Armitage (Vice-Chairman) ..... (Australia)
later: Mr. Abelian (Chairman) ..... (Armenia)
Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administration and Budgetary Questions: Mr. Mselle

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The meeting was called to order at 11.05 a.m.

Agenda item 17: Appointments to fill vacancies in subsidiary organs and other appointments *(continued)*

(e) Appointment of a member of the United Nations Administrative Tribunal *(continued)* (A/53/105/Add.1; A/C.5/53/9/Add.1)

1. **The Chairman** said that, as noted in documents A/53/105/Add.1 and A/C.5/53/9/Add.1, the Secretary-General had been informed of the resignation of Ms. Ashford (United States of America) from the United Nations Administrative Tribunal, and of the nomination of Ms. Echols (United States of America) to fill the unexpired portion of Ms. Ashford's term of office. Since there were no other candidatures, he took it that the Committee wished to recommend to the General Assembly, by acclamation, the appointment of Ms. Echols as a member of the United Nations Administrative Tribunal, for a term beginning on the date of appointment by the General Assembly and ending on 31 December 2001.

2. *Ms. Echols was recommended for appointment as a member of the United Nations Administrative Tribunal.*

(f) International Civil Service Commission *(continued)*

(i) Appointment of a member of the Commission *(continued)* (A/53/106/Add.1; A/C.5/53/10/Add.2)

3. **The Chairman** said that, as noted in documents A/53/106/Add.1 and A/C.5/53/101/Add.2, the Secretary-General had been informed of the death of Mr. Vegega (Argentina), a member of the International Civil Service Commission, and of the nomination of Mr. Sanchis Muñoz (Argentina) to fill the unexpired portion of Mr. Vegega's term of office. Since there were no other candidatures, he took it that the Committee wished to recommend to the General Assembly, by acclamation, the appointment of Mr. Sanchis Muñoz as a member of the International Civil Service Commission, for a term beginning on the date of appointment by the General Assembly and ending on 31 December 2002.

4. *Mr. Sanchis Muñoz was recommended for appointment as a member of the International Civil Service Commission.*

(ii) Designation of the Vice-Chairman of the Commission (A/53/106/Add.1; A/C.5/53/10/Add.3)

5. **The Chairman** drew the Committee's attention to document A/C.5/53/10/Add.3, in which the Secretary-General communicated to the General Assembly the names of three persons nominated by their respective Governments to fill the remainder of the term of office of the Vice-Chairman of the International Civil Service Commission. He invited the Committee to elect by secret ballot one of the candidates to be recommended to the General Assembly for appointment as Vice-Chairman of the International Civil Service Commission for a term beginning on the date of appointment by the General Assembly and ending on 31 December 2002.

6. *At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. Ekorong (Cameroon), Mr. Christian (Ghana) and Ms. Hajjar (Malaysia) acted as tellers.*

7. *A vote was taken by secret ballot.*

Number of ballot papers:	153
Number of valid ballots:	153
Abstentions:	1
Number of members voting:	152
Required majority:	77
Number of votes obtained:	
Mr. Wyzner (Poland)	63
Mr. Sanchis Muñoz (Argentina)	45
Mr. Stöckl (Germany)	44

8. **The Chairman** said that, as no candidate had obtained the required majority, the Committee would hold another secret ballot, restricted to the two candidates with the largest numbers of votes.

9. *A second vote was taken by secret ballot.*

Number of ballot papers:	149
Invalid ballots:	1
Number of valid ballots:	148
Abstentions:	2
Number of members voting:	146
Required majority:	74
Number of votes obtained:	
Mr. Wyzner (Poland)	92
Mr. Sanchis Muñoz (Argentina)	54

10. *Having obtained the required majority, Mr. Wyzner (Poland) was recommended for appointment as Vice-Chairman of the International Civil Service Commission.*

Agenda item 143: Administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations Peacekeeping Operations (*continued*)

(a) Financing of the United Nations Peacekeeping Operations (*continued*) (A/C.5/53/L.62, A/C.5/53/L.63 and A/C.5/53/L.67)

Draft resolution A/C.5/53/L.67

11. **Ms. Brennen-Haylock** (Bahamas), introducing draft resolution A/C.5/53/L.67, drew the Committee's attention to the following changes: the words "so far" in the first line of paragraph 3 were to be deleted; paragraph 26 was to be deleted; and paragraph 27 was to be amended to read "*Decides* to delete paragraph 24 of the report of the Secretary-General and requests the issuance of a corrigendum accordingly".

12. *Draft resolution A/C.5/53/L.67, as orally revised, was adopted.*

13. **Mr. Kuntzle** (Germany), speaking on behalf of the European Union, said that the resolution was of great importance because of its immediate impact on the activities of peacekeeping troops in the field. It provided sufficient resources to support backstopping activities for peacekeeping operations, and made possible the full establishment of the Rapidly Deployable Mission Headquarters without further reduction in the military and civilian police expertise in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations. However, the European Union was concerned at the inclusion in the resolution of a provision requesting the Secretary-General to revise his report on the support account budget. As a matter of principle, the General Assembly ought not to re- draft the reports of the Secretary-General or any other reports submitted to it.

14. **Ms. Buergo Rodríguez** (Cuba) expressed her delegation's concern over the way in which the negotiations on the resolution had been conducted. Some delegations had challenged the mandate of the Committee to amend reports of the Secretary-General containing budget proposals relating, in particular, to the support account. No distinction could be drawn between budget proposals presented by the Secretary-General and the related financing modalities. Her delegation regretted the inclusion by the Secretariat of formulations that went beyond the mandates adopted by the General Assembly in connection with specific items, since it seemed to represent a first step towards having General Assembly mandates "evolve". Finally, further to paragraph 23 of the draft resolution regarding the relationship of the functions of the Rapidly Deployable Mission Headquarters to other structures in the Secretariat, her delegation looked forward to the Secretary-General's consideration of that issue in future reports.

Draft resolution A/C.5/53/L.63

15. **The Chairman**, introducing draft resolution A/C.5/53/L.63, noted that it had been adopted by consensus in informal consultations and suggested that the Committee should do likewise.

16. *Draft resolution A/C.5/53/L.63 was adopted.*

17. **Mr. Yeo** (Director, Peacekeeping Financing Division) explained that errors had been detected in the table contained in the annex to the note by the Secretary-General (A/C.5/53/62), to which a corrigendum would be issued, and read out the correct net amounts for the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon and the revised total figures.

18. **The Chairman** suggested that the Committee should take note of the amounts set out in the table in the annex to the note by the Secretary-General, as orally revised by the Director of the Peacekeeping Financing Division.

19. *It was so decided.*

20. **The Chairman** pointed out that the amounts given in the table, as orally revised, should be introduced into the appropriate blanks in the draft resolutions on which the Committee was about to take action.

Draft resolution A/C.5/53/L.62

21. **Mr. Armitage** (Australia) introduced the draft resolution. It had been adopted by consensus in informal consultations, and he proposed that the Committee should do the same.

22. *Draft resolution A/C.5/53/L.62 was adopted.*

Agenda item 122: Financing of the United Nations Peacekeeping Forces in the Middle East (*continued*)

(a) Financing of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (*continued*) (A/C.5/53/L.56)

(b) Financing of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (*continued*) (A/C.5/53/L.58)

Draft resolution A/C.5/53/L.56

23. **Mr. Ahounou** (Côte d'Ivoire), introducing draft resolution A/C.5/53/L.56, said that the draft resolution had been adopted by consensus in informal consultations. He proposed that the Committee should do likewise.

24. *Draft resolution A/C.5/53/L.56 was adopted.*

25. **Mr. Sulaiman** (Syrian Arab Republic) said that his delegation had strong reservations with regard to draft resolution A/C.5/53/L.56 as adopted by the Committee. International law required an aggressor State to bear the costs of its aggression. Israel must therefore meet the costs of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF), which had been established because of Israel's aggression against and occupation of Arab territories. It was still refusing to withdraw from such territories in implementation of Security Council resolutions 242 (1967) and 338 (1973) and the principle of the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by force, and it was acting in defiance of the resolutions of the General Assembly and the Security Council.

26. In accordance with paragraph 7 of the draft resolution, the Secretary-General must improve the working conditions of the local staff of the Force, taking into account the difficulties arising from the 1994 relocation of Force headquarters from Damascus to Camp Faouar. Good working conditions for all members of the staff were necessary if the Force was to continue to operate successfully. The Secretary-General must also take account of the wishes of the UNDOF local staff committee in implementing the draft resolution.

27. **Mr. Salamat** (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that his delegation believed as a matter of principle that the expenses for the United Nations Disengagement Force (UNDOF) should all be borne by the aggressor, Israel, whose occupying forces had created the situation in which they were needed.

Draft resolution A/C.5/53/L.58 (*continued*)

28. **The Chairman** invited the Committee to resume its consideration of draft resolution A/C.5/53/L.58, introduced at the 59th meeting.

29. *At the request of the representative of the United States of America, a separate vote was taken on the first preambular paragraph and paragraphs 2, 3, 10 and 11 of draft resolution A/C.5/53/L.58.*

In favour:

Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Ecuador, Egypt, Guyana, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritius, Mexico, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uzbekistan, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zimbabwe.

Against:

Israel, United States of America.

Abstaining:

Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, Samoa, San Marino, Slovakia, Slovenia, Sweden, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Uruguay.

30. *The first preambular paragraph and paragraphs 2, 3, 10 and 11 of draft resolution A/C.5/53/L.58 were adopted by 84 votes to 2, with 46 abstentions.*

31. *A recorded vote was taken on draft resolution A/C.5/53/L.58 as a whole.*

In favour:

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Ecuador, Egypt, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, France, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guyana, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia,

Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zimbabwe.

Against:

Israel, United States of America.

Abstaining:

Iran (Islamic Republic of), Uzbekistan.

32. *Draft resolution A/C.5/53/L.58 was adopted by 132 votes to 2, with 2 abstentions.*

33. **Mr. Vohidov** (Uzbekistan) said that his delegation had erred in casting its votes: it had intended to abstain in the voting on the first preambular paragraph and paragraphs 2, 3, 10 and 11 of draft resolution A/C.5/53/L.58 and had intended to vote for the draft resolution as a whole.

34. **Mr. Stein** (Germany), speaking on behalf of the European Union and the associated countries Bulgaria, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia, and, in addition, Iceland, said that the Union believed that the financial costs to the United Nations of the Qana incident of 18 April 1996 were of a special kind. An appeal to have those costs financed through voluntary contributions would be welcome. Also, the costs should be kept in the United Nations budget; the financing of United Nations peacekeeping operations should continue to be a collective responsibility.

35. The States members of the European Union had abstained in the voting on the first preambular paragraph and paragraphs 2, 3, 10 and 11 of the draft resolution because they believed that those paragraphs were inappropriate in the context of a draft resolution dealing with the financing of UNIFIL. The broader political aspects of the incident at Qana had been debated in the General Assembly, which had adopted its resolution 50/22 C on 25 April 1996; at that time, in its statement and in its voting, the European Union had made its position on those broader political aspects clear. It was to be regretted that consultations in the Fifth Committee during the current and previous sessions had not been confined to the budgetary aspects.

36. **Mr. Barnwell** (Guyana), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, recalled that the draft resolution that had just been adopted for recommendation to the General Assembly was the third in a series submitted by the Group under that agenda item in consecutive years. He expressed the Group's concern that the General Assembly would be obliged to adopt similar provisions for the third year in a row. The Group nevertheless hoped that the Secretary-General and the relevant parties would implement the provisions of the draft resolution.

37. **Mr. Najem** (Lebanon) said that the adoption of the draft resolution on the financing of UNIFIL was an affirmation that Israel, the occupying Power, must discharge its international obligations and must comply with the relevant United Nations resolutions. The position of Lebanon was that the aggressor was obliged to bear full responsibility for its aggression, and Lebanon was firmly committed to the principle of collective responsibility. It was Israel's continuing occupation of parts of Lebanon and its failure to comply with Security Council resolution 425 (1978) that were the cause of the violence in southern Lebanon and of the problems encountered by UNIFIL and the civilian inhabitants. Israel was, like others, required to comply with the resolutions of the United Nations. His delegation thanked those that had voted in favour of the draft resolution, and it commended UNIFIL for the exemplary role it performed.

38. **Mr. Salamat** (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that the presence of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon was necessary because of the violation of Lebanon's territorial integrity by the aggressor forces of Israel. The full cost of the Interim Force should therefore be borne by the State of Israel.

39. **Mr. Sulaiman** (Syrian Arab Republic) said that his delegation endorsed the statements that had been made by the representative of Guyana on behalf of the Group of 77 and China and by the representative of Lebanon. By adopting the draft resolution, the Committee had once again affirmed Israel's liability for the costs resulting from its premeditated terrorist attack on the UNIFIL compound at Qana in April 1996. Israel's refusal to comply with General Assembly resolutions 51/233 and 52/237 must not be allowed to go unpunished, since the credibility of the United Nations resided in compliance with its resolutions. The United Nations must therefore confront Israel with its

responsibilities so that it would not continue to flout international law as had always been its custom. His delegation anticipated that by the time the next UNIFIL report was issued the necessary measures would have been taken to compel Israel to comply with the terms of the draft resolution. Israel should not only be required to bear the costs of its attack on the UNIFIL compound but should also be held responsible for financing the entire Force. The adoption of the draft resolution was a victory for the principles of truth, justice and peace proclaimed and promoted by all members of the international community other than Israel, which had repudiated the purposes and principles of the United Nations and the fourth Geneva Convention.

40. **Mr. Armitage** (Australia), speaking also on behalf of Canada and New Zealand, regretted the Committee's failure to achieve consensus on the draft resolution. The voting on specific paragraphs continued an unfortunate precedent which had been set two years previously and undermined the principle that the financing of peacekeeping operations should be based on collective responsibility. He noted that as at 30 April 1999 only 12 per cent of Member States had fully met their obligations to the Organization and urged all other States to do so without delay.

41. **Mr. Adam** (Israel) said that the statements just made by the representatives of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Lebanon and the Syrian Arab Republic were regrettable and took no account of the wind of peace that was sweeping the region. Israel would respond to the statements made in the plenary Assembly.

42. **Mr. Takahara** (Japan) said that Japan had voted in favour of the draft resolution as a whole in order to discharge its responsibility as a Member of the Organization for ensuring that United Nations peacekeeping operations, including UNIFIL, were adequately funded. He, however, regretted the absence of a consensus on the draft text.

Agenda item 123: Financing of the United Nations Angola Verification Mission and the United Nations Observer Mission in Angola (*continued*) (A/C.5/53/L.64)

Draft resolution A/C.5/53/L.64

43. **The Chairman** introduced draft resolution A/C.5/53/L.64. It was his understanding that the Committee wished to consider the report requested in paragraph 7 of the draft resolution at the main part of the fifty-fourth session of the General Assembly.

44. *Draft resolution A/C.5/53/L.64 was adopted.*

Agenda item 124: Financing of the activities arising from Security Council resolution 687 (1991) (*continued*)

(a) United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission (*continued*) (A/C.5/53/L.60)

Draft resolution A/C.5/53/L.60

45. **Mr. Park Hae-yun** (Republic of Korea), introducing draft resolution A/C.5/53/L.60, said that consensus had been reached on the text in informal consultations and he therefore hoped that the draft resolution would be adopted without a vote.

46. *Draft resolution A/C.5/53/L.60 was adopted.*

47. *Mr. Armitage (Australia), Vice-Chairman, took the Chair.*

Agenda item 125: Financing of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (*continued*) (A/C.5/53/L.61)

Draft resolution A/C.5/53/L.61

48. **Ms. Duschner** (Canada), introducing draft resolution A/C.5/53/L.61, said that consensus had been reached on the text in informal consultations and she therefore hoped that the draft resolution would be adopted without a vote.

49. *Draft resolution A/C.5/53/L.61 was adopted.*

Agenda item 126: Financing and liquidation of the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (*continued*) (A/C.5/53/L.52)

Draft resolution A/C.5/53/L.52

50. **The Chairman** introduced draft resolution A/C.5/53/L.52.

51. *Draft resolution A/C.5/53/L.52 was adopted.*

Agenda item 130: Financing of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (*continued*) (A/C.5/53/L.59)

Draft resolution A/C.5/53/L.59

52. **Mr. Takahara** (Japan), introducing draft resolution A/C.5/53/L.59 on behalf of the Chairman, said that consensus had been reached on the text in informal consultations and he therefore hoped that the draft resolution would be adopted without a vote.

53. *Mr. Abelian (Armenia) resumed the Chair.*

54. **The Chairman** said that the issues raised in paragraphs 7 and 8 of the draft resolution would be considered under the relevant agenda items.

55. **Mr. Theophylactou** (Cyprus) said that his Government wished to express its gratitude to the troop-contributing countries and to the peacekeepers who comprised the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus. It was also grateful to those Member States which had paid in full their assessed contributions and, in particular, to the Government of Greece, which contributed the amount of $6.5 million annually to the budget of the Peacekeeping Force. Cyprus itself contributed one third of the Force's total budget.

56. *Draft resolution A/C.5/53/L.59 was adopted.*

Agenda item 131: Financing of the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia (*continued*) (A/C.5/53/L.54)

Draft resolution A/C.5/53/L.54

57. **Mr. Jaremczuk** (Poland), introducing draft resolution A/C.5/53/L.54 on behalf of the Chairman, said that consensus had been reached on the text in the informal consultations and he therefore hoped that the draft resolution would be adopted without a vote.

58. *Draft resolution A/C.5/53/L.54 was adopted.*

Agenda item 133: Financing of the United Nations Observer Mission in Liberia (*continued*) (A/C.5/53/L.53)

Draft decision A/C.5/53/L.53

59. **The Chairman** introduced draft decision A/C.5/53/L.53.

60. *Draft decision A/C.5/53/L.53 was adopted.*

Agenda item 136: Financing of the United Nations Mission of Observers in Tajikistan (*continued*) (A/C.5/53/L.55)

Draft resolution A/C.5/53/L.55

61. **The Chairman**, introducing draft resolution A/C.5/53/L.55, said that, instead of "1,370,000 dollars", the estimated staff assessment income in paragraph 9 of the draft text should read "1,233,000 dollars".

62. *Draft resolution A/C.5/53/L.55 was adopted.*

Agenda item 138: Financing of the United Nations Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina (*continued*) (A/C.5/53/L.48)

Draft resolution A/C.5/53/L.48

63. **Mr. Jaremczuk** (Poland), introducing draft resolution A/C.5/53/L.48 on behalf of the Chairman, urged its adoption by consensus.

64. *Draft resolution A/C.5/53/L.48 was adopted.*

Agenda item 139: Financing of the United Nations Transitional Administration for Eastern Slavonia, Baranja and Western Sirmium and the Civilian Police Support Group *(continued)* (A/C.5/53/L.49)

Draft resolution A/C.5/53/L.49

65. **Mr. Jaremczuk** (Poland), introducing draft resolution A/C.5/53/L.49 on behalf of the Chairman, expressed the hope that it would be adopted by consensus.

66. *Draft resolution A/C.5/53/L.49 was adopted.*

Agenda item 140: Financing of the United Nations Preventive Deployment Force (*continued*) (A/C.5/53/L.65)

Draft resolution A/C.5/53/L.65

67. **The Chairman** introduced draft resolution A/C.5/53/L.65.

68. *Draft resolution A/C.5/53/L.65 was adopted.*

Agenda item 141: Financing of the United Nations Support Mission in Haiti, the United Nations Transition Mission in Haiti and the United Nations Civilian Police Mission in Haiti (*continued*) (A/C.5/53/L.50)

Draft resolution A/C.5/53/L.50

69. **Mr. Ahounou** (Côte d'Ivoire), introducing draft resolution A/C.5/53/L.50, urged its adoption by consensus.

70. *Draft resolution A/C.5/53/L.50 was adopted.*

Agenda item 142: Financing of the military observer group of the United Nations Verification Mission in Guatemala (*continued*) (A/C.5/53/L.51)

Draft resolution A/C.5/53/L.51

71. **Mr. Theophylactou** (Cyprus), introducing draft resolution A/C.5/53/L.51 on behalf of the Chairman, expressed the hope that it would be adopted by consensus.

72. *Draft resolution A/C.5/53/L.51 was adopted.*

Agenda item 161: Financing of the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic *(continued)* (A/C.5/53/L.66)

Draft resolution A/C.5/53/L.66

73. **The Chairman** introduced draft resolution A/C.5/53/L.66.

74. *Draft resolution A/C.5/53/L.66 was adopted.*

Agenda item 127: Financing of the United Nations Protection Force, the United Nations Confidence Restoration Operation in Croatia, the United Nations Preventive Deployment Force and the United Nations Peace Forces Headquarters (*continued*) (A/C.5/53/L.57)

Agenda item 128: Financing of the United Nations Operation in Somalia II (*continued*) (A/C.5/53/L.57)

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Agenda item 134: Financing of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda (*continued*) (A/C.5/53/L.57)

Draft decision A/C.5/53/L.57

75. **The Chairman** introduced draft decision A/C.5/53/L.57.

76. *Draft decision A/C.5/53/L.57 was adopted.*

Agenda item 112: Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations (*continued*)

Agenda item 119: Human resources management (*continued*)

Management irregularities causing financial loss to the Organization (*continued*) (A/53/849 and A/53/954; A/C.5/53/CRP.2)

77. **Ms. Salim** (Assistant Secretary-General for Human Resources Management), replying to questions posed by members of the Committee at previous meetings and during informal consultations, said that a number of initiatives had been taken in the areas of procurement, finance and human resources management with a view to implementing the recommendations contained in the report of the Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts established pursuant to General Assembly resolution 48/218 A on the jurisdictional and procedural mechanism for the proper management of resources and funds of the United Nations (A/49/418). With regard to management and staff accountability, the new Performance Appraisal System (PAS) reflected the change to a performance-based culture. One of the main recommendations of the expert group had concerned training, particularly of managers, who were to participate in peacekeeping missions. Accordingly, various programmes had been conducted over the past two years by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Office of Human Resources Management (OHRM), including a ten-week intensive course for prospective chief administrative officers and special programmes for staff who were to be employed in peacekeeping missions as personnel officers, budget officers and in general administration. Also, training was routinely conducted at Headquarters in the three primary areas of administration for all staff, whether Professional or General Service, who carried out those functions.

78. With regard to disciplinary action taken against staff, since 1994, 48 staff members had been summarily dismissed 20 had been dismissed, 6 had been fined, 10 had received written censures, 6 had been demoted, 8 had been reprimanded, and in five cases annual step increments had been withheld. She noted that not all of the summary dismissals had involved fraud.

79. Turning to the questions posed regarding the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) on the investigation into allegations of theft of funds by a staff member of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) (A/53/811, annex), she said that, while the report highlighted comments attributed to the supervisor of the perpetrator of the fraud, it did not constitute a comprehensive review of the manager's overall supervisory performance. Given that that individual might be the subject of further investigation, his right to due process must be respected. With regard to his secondment, however, she could confirm, that the request for release, the agreement to the release and the staff member's departure had occurred while the investigation by OIOS was ongoing. It must be emphasized that numerous initiatives had been taken by management at both UNCTAD and the United Nations Office at Geneva to strengthen internal controls in order to ensure that the fraudulent activities uncovered would not be repeated. Some of those initiatives were described in the OIOS report.

80. The Department of Management, the Office of the Deputy Secretary-General and the OHRM fully acknowledged the concerns underlying the points raised in the Committee and other bodies. The Organization had

comprehensive mechanisms for identifying and prosecuting cases of fraud, and, when the legal process had run its course, the Administration had at its disposal a number of sanctions that could be imposed against the offenders, including summary dismissal. There was, however, no clear policy or procedure for handling cases of management irregularity, whether involving systematic management problems, mismanagement, negligence or gross negligence. The issue was currently being studied at the highest level, and proposals would eventually be submitted to the General Assembly.

81. The Administration was committed to ensuring that effective mechanisms and procedures were put in place to prevent management irregularities. As the culture of performance management took root in the Organization, the supervisors of managers would become more proficient in handling such cases. Also, since some managerial problems were related to poor skills, training programmes would be focused on addressing that problem.

Other matters

82. **Mr. Sulaiman** (Syrian Arab Republic) expressed deep dissatisfaction at the Secretariat's failure to respond to the questions and concerns that he had raised at previous meetings regarding parking arrangements. The issue was an important one, and he therefore wanted an assurance that he would receive a reply at the Committee's next meeting.

83. **The Chairman** said he would see to it that the Secretariat replied to all points raised by members of the Committee that had yet to be addressed.

The meeting rose at 1.15 p.m.